REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1-5 and 7-15 are amended. No new matter is added.

I.   The Specification

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Le at the interview held October 21, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

II.   The Specification

Although not objected to, the Abstract of the specification is amended to remove legal phraseology.

III.   Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,982,995 to Covert et al. (Covert). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants assert that Covert does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended. For example, Covert does not disclose a method for providing an integrated log for a selected configuration in a multi-modular device, comprising *inter alia* generating a configuration log for the modular device that includes entries indicating an identity of a module and at least one of introduction or removal of a module relative to the device, as recited in amended claim 1, or providing respective error logs and a log of at least one of introduction or removal of a swappable module that records operational events and a time of occurrence of the operational events as recited in amended claim 5. Additionally, Applicants assert that Covert does not disclose providing a configuration log indicative of changing configurations of a modular device as recited in original claim 8, or a controller including a routine that effects monitoring of at least one of addition and deletion and

repositioning of the modules and generating a second set of entries in response to at least one of an addition, deletion or repositioning of the modules, as recited in claim 12.

Covert discloses a method for logging data in an electrophotographic printing machine to a centralized logging service to gather and maintain information for multiple distributed machine modules (col. 1, lines 5-9). In Covert, a log-in service 53 receives information about log events 43 and records information in log event files 47, a log viewer 40 receives the log event files 47 along with the template file 48 to form a readable log output 46 (col. 4, lines 29-40). Automatic collection of data occurs every time the printing machine shuts down after a problem occurs and may also occur when a user observes a machine problem and manually invokes the collection (col. 4, lines 47-53).

The types of information that comprise a log event 43 include: normal and abnormal service operation status and statistics, performance-analysis data, debugging information, and execution trace and code profiling data. Additional items that constitute the log event 43 are major input and output messages for respective machine modules, machine module instructions to propose, except, confirm or break processing, and module work disposition. Log events that are specifically logged at controller module 7 consist of job cue summaries. With regard to debugging information, the machine modules log all events 43 that aid in detecting, locating and correcting software errors occurring in the modules (col. 5, lines 23-36).

Each log entry 45 has a plurality of fields including: a record size 144, a source identification 145, a module identification 146, a time stamp 147, an event field 148, and a data field 149 (col. 5, lines 58-61). The event field 148 contains a short descriptor similar to "jam", "adjustment", "feed" or "delivery" to classify the event. The data field 149 further includes the number of times that an event occurred and a description of the event (col. 6, lines 5-9).
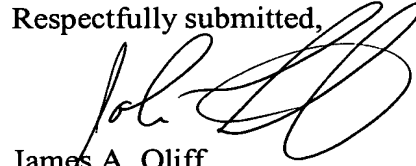
Thus, as discussed and agreed during the interview, Covert is silent regarding generating a configuration log for a modular device that includes entries indicating an identity of a module and at least one of introduction or removal of modules relative to the device in other words, Covert does not disclose monitoring the removal or reconfiguration of modules within a multi-modular device, providing error logs of such events, or providing a configuration log of such an event. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

IV.   **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:
    Amended Abstract

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